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**Contact: Rachel Wall  
916.384.9026 | [rwall@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:rwall@hsr.ca.gov)**

## **High-Speed Rail Planning Conference and Report Confirm Train's Potential to Boost Southern California Economy**

*Authority Chairman Pringle, Board Member Umberg Discuss Findings*

IRVINE – Building a fast, convenient and efficient high-speed rail system will boost payrolls of Southern California's workforce more than \$700 million, according to a report from the University of California at Irvine.

The University's Institute for Transportation Studies report, "Thinking Ahead: High-Speed Rail in Southern California," found that the project will create more than 127,000 permanent new jobs in the region by 2035 and provide \$701 million in income to workers who otherwise would have remained unemployed during the construction phase of the project.

California High-Speed Rail Authority Chairman Curt Pringle and Board Member Tom Umberg issued the following statements at "The Light at the End of the Tunnel: Planning for High-Speed Rail in Orange County and Southern California" conference held at Brandman University in Irvine, to discuss the report:

"Cities with a high-speed rail station will grow and transition into hubs of commerce. Regions with commuter connections to the high-speed rail system will take advantage of development opportunities," Chairman Pringle said. "This report is a reminder that high-speed rail can provide communities tremendous opportunities to reinvent themselves, and prosper in the process."

"This report is a timely reminder about what high-speed rail will do to provide jobs and economic opportunity here in Orange County and throughout the region," Board Member Umberg said. "This project will grow our economy, and create new opportunities – and new customers – for businesses large and small."

The report is available online at <http://www.c-u-i.org/>.

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